[TFR 717-1]

REPORT[1]

During the period of 7-10 August 2001, I conducted research work at the Archives of the Federal Border Guards Service of the Russian Federation at Pushkino.

I examined documents from time periods when American aircraft were lost in the Far East, Baltic and Northern region (Barents Sea).

I. Far Eastern Incidents (6 November 1951; 13 June 1952; 7 October 1952; 29 July 1953; [18] April 1955; 10 September 1956)

Materials were examined from fond 231, opis'1.

I did not find anything new in the documents that I examined. However, some data may supplement information that the Commission already has.

1. A frayed jacket of American manufacture was found in the region of Cape Maydelya on 11 June 1955. In this very same region in July of 1953, more than 5 (five) of the same kind of jackets belonging to the crew of the American aircraft that was shot down in the region of Askold Island were recovered.

2. In April 1955, items that were washed up by the ocean between the rivers Poludannaya and Podutesnaya on the western shore of Mednyy Island that belonged to the American B-47-13[2] aircraft were discovered:

-- one life jacket
-- military maps of Chukhotsk and Alaska
--sketches and descriptions of the aircraft in the English language

3. On 6 November 1951, near the Ostrovnoy lighthouse, a twin-engine American "Boeing" aircraft was shot down by gunfire from LA-11 fighters. The aircraft sank. No observation of this from the shore was recorded.

4. Concerning the 18 April 1955 incident:

A B-47-13 aircraft violated the border in the region of Cape Vasilyev, and in the region of Cape Kronotskiy was intercepted by fighter aircraft, was photographed by them and shot down by gunfire. It went down near Bering Island.

5. On 21 April 1955, it was reported from Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk that a loud explosion was heard. The crew of a jet fighter aircraft saw smoke in the region of the supposed

[1] Report by Rear Admiral (ret) Boris Gavrilovich Novyy, expert advisor to the Cold War Working Group of the U.S.-Russia Joint Commission on POW/MIAs.
[2] It is not clear what the "13" means. The U.S. designation for the aircraft was RB-47E.

Reviewed by DPMO
IAW 50 USC 435 Note &DOD 5400.7-R
Date:01-Nov-2001 Initialed By: R. T.

explosion. Fishermen saw the explosion and smoke on the horizon in the area of the Komandorskye Islands.

[TFR 717-2]

In this region, the Americans carried out an intensive search.

On 22 April 1955 it was reported that from a civilian boat, two members of the crew, Vasilyev and Pitokov, saw a tall column of smoke, which dispersed after 15 minutes. Scientific worker Danilov photographed the smoke. From the coast of the village of Nikolskoye (Bering Island, Komandorskye Islands), two local inhabitants also observed the column of smoke, heard a rumbling and an explosion. No one saw the aircraft go down.

6. In the region of Ratmanov Island on 23 June 1955, an aircraft was attacked by two jet fighters. The aircraft made a sharp descent and concealed itself in the clouds. During the course of 23 and 24 June 1955, American forces conducted a search for the missing aircraft, but without results.

In the documents examined, I did not find any observations by the border guards about survivors or bodies of American crewmembers.[3]

In all, more than 50 files consisting of more than 2000 pages were examined concerning the Pacific Ocean.

[TFR 717-3]

II. Baltic (8 April 1950)

I examined documents with materials about the operational situation on the Baltic; reports, materials about incidents at the border and border zones, combat encounters, the observation service, telegraph reports and memorandums, documentary reports that were presented at the Main Directorate [GRU] in 1950-1951; personnel cards on monetary allowances of officers of the 8th Border Guards Detachment (Detachment Directorate at Ventspils) and others.

From the reports:

On 4 May 1950, the crew of fishing boat number 56 was returning to the port of Vindava,[4] and when it was abeam of Ehvels 21-23 kilometers from the coast, it observed

[3] This is likely a reference to an incident involving a U.S. Navy P2V Neptune, which went down during a mission over the Bering Straits on 22 June 1955. All 11 crewmembers were recovered alive. The discrepancy in the date can be explained by the fact that official U.S. reports used U.S. Eastern time, which is a day behind the time in the Soviet Far East.

[4] Ventspils.

a floating yellow rubber packet on the surface of the sea that was 84 cm long that was closed with two buttons. The dimensions of the packet were 17 x 25. Its contents were:

1. Two canvas tents of a gray color for a [life]boat with dimensions of 95 x 119 cm.

2. One rubberized tent of a black color with a red silk lining with dimensions of 342.7 x 218.3, all manufactured by the English firm [Vilkis] and [Getger] Incorporated in 1949.

3. Three tubular aluminum paddles of a dark blue color in three sections. One side of the paddle blade is painted green and serves as a reflector for a beam from a projector [from a ship] for the purpose of indicating its location. Manufactured by the American firm "Aluminum Goods."

4. Hand pump.

The 8th Border Guards Detachment had outposts that were located in Nauzhi, Liepkalni, Pavilosta, Ulmale, Labrask, Pazhi, Otneki.

If the local inhabitants had observed bodies of aircrew members on the shore, they would have handed them over to Border Guards from these outposts.

Except for the item described above (the packet), I did not find any materials relating to the 8 April 1950 incident in the documents.

It is necessary to determine the addresses of officer personnel who served in the 8th Border Guards Detachment in the archives.

All the documents that were examined are located in fond 290, opis' 4, files 4,5, 14,13; fond 290, opis' 5, files 11, 24, 25; fond 303, opis' 2, files 224, 225, 227, 228, 229, 290; fond 295, opis' 1, files 28 [page cut off]

[TFR 717-4]

III. Barents Sea (1 July 1960), 19-22 October 1960

Documents examined: Reports on the service of the 82nd Border Guards Detachment and KPP (Border Guards Command Post), "Murmansk" orders for the 82nd BG Detachment and "Murmansk" BG Command Post; permanent employee records; service-registration forms; financial registers, and others.

The 1 July 1960 incident (19-22 October 1960) is not reflected in the documents.

Staff personnel of interest:

1. Commander of maintenance platoon Shashkin, Yuriy Nikolayevich, DOB 1931. Lives in Moscow.

2. Chief of post "Kildin," Yermakov, Nikolay Mikhailovich, DOB 1923. Lives in Voronezh.

3. Deputy of supply company, Kesler, Mikhail Konstantinovich, DOB 1921. Has lived in Moscow since 31 December 1960.

4. Commander of headquarters company Nagin, Sergey Grigoryevich, DOB 1931. Lives in Moscow.

5. Deputy commander of political unit Ogibenin, Viktor Petrovich, DOB 1922. Lives in Murmansk.

GAZ-51 truck drivers of interest:

1. Gutnikov, Fedor Alekseyevich, DOB18 February 1939. Released from active duty to Pavlovskiy regional voyenkomat, Voronezh oblast.

2. Gruzd, Vasiliy Dmitriyevich, DOB 23 August 1940. Released from active duty to Kirovskiy regional voyenkomat, Perm', 18 November 1960.

The Archives of the FSB will provide assistance in seeking the residences of Shashkin, Yu.K. and Nagin, S.G. (A memorandum from the Commission has been forwarded).

Documents were examined from fond 113, opis' 2, files 735, 254, 255, 256, 257, 259, 416, 417, 474; fond 113, opis' 3, files 54, 55, 56, 100, 191; fond 255, opis' 14, files 553, 425, 426, 413, 414; fond 111, opis' 8, files 941, 942, 944, 945.

Also examined were two volumes (volume I and volume II) of fond 1Y. In all, more than 2200 pages were examined.

Conclusions and Suggestions

According to [Border Guards] Archives staff personnel, they have made at least five searches for materials on events connected with the shoot-downs of U.S. aircraft at the request of former Commission chairman Volkogonov.

In all likelihood, the materials are in the Archives of the FSB, because when deceased foreign military personnel were found, they were handed over to the regional organs of the KGB.

[TFR 717-5]

1. I am seeking the addresses of GAZ-51 drivers, one of who may have reloaded the body of Posa onto the "Voronok" in the city of Severomorsk on 19 October 1960.

2. Determine the addresses of officer personnel of the 8th Border Guards Detachment at the Archives of the Federal Border Guards Service at Pushkino.

[signature]
Novyy

25 August 2001